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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH.

1938.

P. W. MACLAGAN, M.D. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors
of the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,


In matters affecting the public health of the Borough, the year 1938 has been noteworthy for several outstanding features, viz. :—

- (1) Lowest Birth-rate on record.
- (2) Lowest Death-rate on record.
- (3) Lowest Tuberculosis Death-rate on record.
- (4) Highest number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the past 30 years.
- (5) Largest number of houses condemned as unfit for human habitation.
- (6) Largest number of new houses built in any year since 1919.

The Birth-rate for the Borough has been steadily declining for many years, and this year is the lowest yet recorded. The total number of live births was 167, giving a rate of 13.85, compared with a total of 183 for 1937, and a rate of 15.086. Over a long period of years our average birth-rate has been slightly higher than that of England and Wales; this year our rate is lower, the rate for the country being 15.1. Reference to p.p. 9-10 shews the decline in the number and rate of births since 1921 in both the Borough and the whole of the country. Better facilities for housing young couples desirous of getting married might help the birth-rate, as in many cases marriage has to be postponed for a considerable period until a house is available suitable for the higher standard of house desired by the younger generation.

The Death-rate, on the other hand, is much more satisfactory, and is the lowest yet recorded. The number of deaths is 134, giving a death-rate of 9.67, compared with 171 deaths, and a rate of 12.26 in the previous year. Of the 134 deaths no less than 64, or 48% were of persons over 65 years of age. The steady decline in our death-rate, and the increase in the length of life, is a very satisfactory feature, as is shown by our vital statistics.

Tuberculosis.—The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis number only 2, giving a death-rate of 0.166, which is the lowest on record. The rate for England and Wales was 0.523, that for Scotland 0.690. There has been a steady decline in the number of deaths from this disease during the past 63 years. In the 5 years, 1876-80, 160 persons died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Berwick, whilst in the past 5 years, 1934-38, only 39 died.

 The improved housing accommodation already provided in recent years, and the further abatement of overcrowded conditions anticipated, should secure further reduction in the mortality from this cause. There were no deaths during the year from non-pulmonary tuberculosis; only in 1931 has there previously been no deaths from this cause. There has been a marked decrease in this cause of death, particularly during the past 12 years.

Infantile Death-rate.—12 Children under one year died, giving an infantile death-rate of 72 per 1000 births, whereas the rate for England and Wales was 53. Our average for the 8 years, 1931-38, is 56, while the average for the whole country over the same period is 60. A reference to the table (p. 16) shews a steady decline in the infantile mortality rate since 1891, the rate now being less than half of what it was thirty years ago.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 156 cases of scarlet fever were notified, and 154 of these were treated in hospital. Although one death occurred, that of a woman of 47 years, the disease was of a mild type, but apparently very infectious. A very large number of persons were found amongst contacts with sore "scarlet" throats, who evidenced no other symptoms of scarlet fever. Thorough investigation of all cases notified was carried out, and contacts followed up to schools and employment. An antiseptic for gargling was given to each contact. Early diagnosis and immediate removal of cases to hospital was the rule. The suddenness with which children were attacked was a marked feature of this type of scarlet fever. Frequently a child would leave home for school in the morning apparently all right, but by dinner time of the same day was safely deposited in the hospital with scarlet fever. The outbreak began in June, and, with an occasional lull of a week or two, reached its peak in December and continued into March of this year. This is the first extensive outbreak of infectious disease which has occurred in Berwick since 1919. That it was not more extensive was largely due to the hearty co-operation of school teachers and doctors with the Public Health Department.

Housing Accommodation.—During 1938, 136 families, comprising 492 persons from condemned houses were re-housed, 214 houses occupied by 802 persons were condemned as unfit for human habitation, and 178 houses, providing accommodation for 832 persons (units) were erected to rehouse persons displaced from the unfit houses, including some houses condemned prior to 1938.

Since 1921 the Council has built 786 houses and had other 30 almost completed at the end of the year, while private enterprise has built 298 houses, making a total of 1114. This number is equivalent to about one-third of the total houses in the Borough.

The improvement in the health and appearance of those removed from unfit houses to the new Council houses is very evident, and is ample justification for the action taken by the Council in clearing out slum property and providing the occupants with up-to-date and healthier dwellings.

While the worst of the properties in the Borough have been cleared away, there still remain several properties to be dealt with in the same manner, but the more difficult work of reconstructing the better type of workmen's dwellings, and providing them with internal water supply and additional sanitary accommodation, will take several years to accomplish.

The 1936 overcrowding survey revealed 630 overcrowded houses. Since the original survey no less than 379 cases have been relieved. The incoming year will show a further substantial reduction when the families removed to the new Council houses in the first quarter of 1939 are taken into account.

The Council has arranged to build 10 houses in Spittal for abatement of overcrowding, and is considering suitable sites for the erection of another 100 houses.

The progressive improvement in the health of the community is more obvious when the vital statistics over a period of years are taken into consideration, than by merely comparing the year under report with the previous year. References to p.p. 11, 12, 15 give an indication of the value of the public health, medical and nursing services in reducing the death-rate and prolonging the length of life. The health of this Borough has been steadily improving during the past half century, and the full permanent benefits of the improved sanitary conditions recently effected in the Borough should become more evident in the vital statistics of the next ten years.

P. W. MACLAGAN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sections A & F.—STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

General Statistics.

Area—7,156 acres

Population—1931 census, 12,299. (1921 census, 12,985.)

R.G. est., mid-year 1938—12,060

No. of Inhabited Houses—3508.

Rateable Value, 1934—£69,430 (as at 31st March, 1939).

Sum rep. by 1d. rate—£277 Do.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, and Local Regulations

IN OPERATION IN THE BOROUGH, with DATES OF ADOPTION.

<i>Acts.</i>	<i>Dates of Adoption</i>
Public Health Acts Amendment Acts, 1890	28th Oct., 1891
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	Do.
Private Streets Works Acts, 1892	27th Dec., 1922
Public Health Acts Amendment Acts, 1907	
Parts II., III., IV., V., VI., and X.	22nd Sept., 1914
Health Resorts and Watering Places Act, 1921	29th Dec., 1921
Local Government and other Officers Super- annuation Act, 1922	27th Oct., 1925
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II., III., IV., V.	26th Oct., 1926
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923	11th Dec., 1934

Bye-Laws

Cleansing of Footways...	7th May, 1879
Nuisances ...	Do.
Common Lodging Houses ...	Do.
Slaughter Houses ...	Do.
Cattle Market, Castlegate, Berwick-upon-Tweed	2nd May, 1888
Hackney Carriages ...	7th Aug., 1889
Omnibuses ...	11th June, 1890
New Streets and Buildings ...	22nd Dec., 1925
Offensive Trade—Gut Scraping ...	27th Jan., 1931
Pleasure Grounds ...	29th April, 1933

Regulations:

Water Regulations ...	18th March, 1902
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VITAL STATISTICS.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	
Legitimate	78	79	157	
Illegitimate	5	5	10	
(Reg.-Gen.) Totals	83	84	167	Rate 13.847

DEATHS.		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate</i>
(Registrar-General)	...	67	68	135	9.74
Deduct 1 death (Scottish) female		67	67	134	9.67
Number of Women dying in consequence of Child-birth—					Nil.
Do.	from Sepsis	...	...		Nil.
Do.	from other causes...		...		Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year—

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate per 1000</i>
Legitimate	...	5	6	11	} 72
Illegitimate	...	1	—	1	

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	—	—
Do. Whooping Cough	...	2	0.166
Do. Diphtheria	...	—	—
Do. Diarrhoea ...	...	—	—
Do. Scarlet Fever	...	1	0.083
Do. Tuberculosis (Pul.)	...	2	0.166
Do. do. (Non-Pul.)		—	—

Comparative Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates certain Infectious Diseases.

				Rates per 1000 population.		
				No.	Berwick.	Eng. & Wales
Births—						
Live	...	...	167	13.85	15.1	
Still	...	...	2	0.17	0.60	
Deaths—				*135	9.74	} 11.6
All causes	...	...	†134	9.67		
Typhoid & Para. fever	...	...	0	0	0	
Smallpox	...	...	0	0	0	
Measles...	...	...	0	0	0.04	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	0.08	0.01	
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	0.17	0.03	
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0.07	
Influenza	...	...	0	0	0.11	
Violence...	...	...	5	0.41	...	

Notifications—						
Smallpox	...	...	0	0	0	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	156	12.94	2.41	
Diphtheria	...	...	18	1.49	1.58	
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	0	0.03	
Erysipelas	...	...	4	0.33	0.40	
Pneumonia	..	...	2	0.17	0.10	

Rates per 1,000 Live Births—						
Deaths under 1 year	...	...	12	72	53	
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis						
under 2 years	...	...	0	0	5.5	

Maternal mortality rates (per 1000 live births)—						
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	0	0.89	
Others	...	...	0	0	2.19	
Total	...	...	0	0	3.08	

Maternal Mortality rates (per 1000 totalbirths, i.e., live and still)—						
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	0	0.86	
Others	.....	...	0	0	2 11	
Total	...	...	0	0	2.97	

Notifications—						
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	0	} 14.42	
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	0	0		

*Registrar General's figures.

† Excludes 1 death of a person resident in Scotland.

Population.

The population, estimated by the Registrar-General for the Borough to mid-year, 1938, is 12,060.

The number of births during the year exceeded the number of deaths by 33.

Births.

The births allocated to the Borough by the Registrar-General numbered 167, giving a birth-rate of 13.85. When compared with the equivalent figures for the previous year (183 births and a rate of 15.09) and with the birth-rate of 15.1 for England & Wales for 1938 this year's Borough birth rate may be considered low, indeed, the lowest yet recorded for the Borough.

The birth rate is calculated on a population of 12,060, which includes the military population, as the births occurring amongst military residents are included in our total.

No arrangement appears to be in operation for the transfer of births which occur in Scotland, the usual residence of the parents being within the Borough. This results in our birth rate appearing lower, and our infantile death rate appearing higher than it would otherwise be. There is no reliable information to enable one to say how many births are lost in this way, and, where the population is as small as it is here, half-a-dozen births more or less make an apparent difference in these rates.

There were 10 illegitimate births (5 males and 5 females) in the total of 167.

The distribution of the births was as follows:—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Berwick ...	39	46	85
Tweedmouth ...	27	17	44
Spittal ...	13	14	27
Inwards from England	4	7	11
	83	84	167

Compared with the previous year the township of Berwick shews 5 less births, Tweedmouth 16 less, and Spittal 10 more.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Birthrate</i>	<i>Eng. & Wales</i>
1921	145	137	282	22.87	22.4
2	140	129	269	21.95	20.4
3	140	134	274	21.92	19.7
4	154	140	294	23.37	18.8
5	142	108	250	20.50	18.3
6	123	107	230	18.62	17.8
7	121	117	238	19.40	16.7
8	114	99	213	17.36	16.7
9	105	109	214	17.76	16.3
1921-29	1184	1080	2264	20.42	18.57
	52.3%	47.7%			

1930	116	86	202	16.60	16.3
1	96	102	198	16.16	15.8
2	87	94	181	14.78	15.3
3	99	90	189	15.45	14.4
4	102	90	192	15.80	14.8
5	76	95	171	14.19	14.7
6	94	83	177	14.53	14.8
7	88	95	183	15.09	14.9
8	83	84	167	13.85	15.1
1930-38	—841	—819	—1660	—15.16	—15.12
	50.7%	49.3%			
Totals	2025	1899	3924	Av., 17.79	Av., 16.84
	51.6%	48.4%			

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS.

	Boys	Girls	Difference
9 years, 1921-9	52.3%	47.7%	4.6%
9 years, 1930-8	50.7%	49.3%	1.4%
18 years, 1921-38	51.6%	48.4%	3.2%
Difference between 1921-9 and 1930-8	-1.6%	+ 1.6%	

A study of the above table reveals some interesting facts.

During the past 9 years (1930-38) compared with the previous 9 years (1921-29) there has been a decrease in the number of births of 604. This decrease occurs in both sexes, but is more marked amongst the boys. There are 343 boys and 261 girls fewer.

Whilst in the percentage of the total births the boys exceeded the girls by 4.6% in 1921-29, the difference was only 1.4% in 1930-38, whereas in the former period the total number of boys exceeded the girls by 104. in the latter period the boys exceeded the girls by only 22.

It will be seen by the above table that the number of girls born first started to exceed the boys in 1929; the following year however the boys more than recovered their number, but over the past 8 years, 1931-8, the girls' average has slightly exceeded the boys.

It would be interesting to know whether this decrease in the proportion of boys to girls born during the above periods was general throughout the country. Reference to the Registrar-General's Statistical Review of England and Wales tables of births shew that during the past hundred years the boys born have always been in excess of the girls, the proportion being 51% for boys and 49% girls, and in no period have the girls born exceeded the boys.

Deaths.

The number of deaths belonging to the Borough is 134, giving a death rate of 9.67, as compared with 171 deaths and a rate of 12.26 for the previous year. The following table shews the number of deaths and the death rates since 1921 :—

	<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of deaths</i>	<i>Death rate</i>
	1921	179	14.52
	2	169	13.64
	3	139	11.12
	4	238	18.92
	5	166	11.35
	6	173	11.68
	7	156	10.61
	8	172	11.62
	9	151	10.61
Total for 9 years	...	—1543	—12.67 Aver.
	1930	156	10.84
	1	157	10.91
	2	163	11.10
	3	169	11.52
	4	145	10.38
	5	171	12.35
	6	181	12.91
	7	171	12.26
	1938	134	9.67
Total for 9 years	...	—1447	—11.33
		2990	12.0 Aver.

The death rate of 1938 is calculated on a population of 12,060 and is modified by a standardising factor of 0.870 to correct the death rate on account of the age and sex constitution of our population.

The death-rate, 9.67, is the lowest yet recorded for the Borough. While this rate is very satisfactory, it is not any lower than it ought to be in such a healthy atmosphere as exists at Berwick. It is only because of the unhealthy houses and overcrowded conditions in which the present and previous generations have lived, and the mode of living, that the death-rate has been so high in the past. Of course our death-rate is influenced prejudicially by the lack of work to keep the younger members of our population in the Borough, and this also influences our birth-rate. Now that such a great improvement has been, and is being effected in housing conditions, the next decade should result in the average annual death-rate being maintained around 10 per 1000 of the population, and general sickness and ill-health should be greatly reduced.

Taking the census (1931) population age groups and the *crude* death-rate (11.11) for 1938, it may be calculated that the average length of life in this Borough is 63 years. If the inhabitants all lived the allotted span of three score years and ten, then the death-rate would be 5.54. This ideal may not be reached for another 100 years, but the great improvement already attained in the reduction of the death-rate, which has been halved during the past 60 years, should encourage the hope that the attainment of such an ideal is not impossible.

A reference to a table showing the number of deaths and the death-rates for each year since 1876 enables us to appreciate the great improvement which has been attained in the death-rate during the past 60 years.

During the fifty years 1876-1925, a total of 12,185 deaths occurred in the Borough. If the death-rate had been as low during that period as it was in 1938, there would have been only 7889 deaths, or 4296 less. Conversely, if the death-rate in 1938 had been the same as it was in 1878, instead of there being only 134 deaths, there would have been 299.

From the total deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, viz., 135, there falls to be deducted 1 death belonging to Scotland.

The distribution of the deaths was as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Berwick	36	26	62
Tweedmouth	23	25	48
Spittal	4	12	16
Inward Transfers	4	4	8
	67	67	134

Compared with the previous year, the township of Berwick shews 36 less deaths, Tweedmouth 12 more, and Spittal 10 less.

Ages at Death.

The tables of ages at death is shewn with the percentage of total deaths at the various age periods, compared with the previous 4 years.

Ages.	No. of deaths.			Percentage of Total deaths				
	M	F	Tot.	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
Un. 1	6	6	12	8.96	3.51	3.87	7.02	5.52
1-5	1	2	3	2.24	2.92	1.10	4.68	4.83
5-15	1	...	1	0.74	1.17	1.10	1.17	2.76
15-25	1	2	3	2.24	5.26	2.76	3.51	4.14
25-45	6	4	10	7.46	6.43	6.63	10.53	10.34
45-60	10	19	29	21.64	12.87	15.47	9.94	15.17
60-65	7	5	12	8.96	8.77	12.71	12.87	8.97
65-70	8	4	12	8.96	12.28	8.84	8.77	8.97
70-80	17	12	29	21.64	25.74	23.21	28.07	24.13
80-90	10	11	21	15.67	19.88	20.44	11.69	13.10
90 up.	...	2	2	1.49	1.17	3.87	1.75	2.07
	67	67	134	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

The age groups which are higher than usual are those under 1 year and those between the ages of 45 and 60 years. The latter age group has a percentage of the total deaths of 21.64, whereas the average percentage for this group for the past ten years was 14.14. 20 of these 29 deaths were women, and only 9 men. The largest single causes of death in this age group were cancer, which accounted for 9 (all women), and heart disease, 6.

The following table, showing the percentage of total deaths at certain age periods for 1938 and compared with the average percentage for the 10 years 1928-1937 is interesting. It is desirable to have a low percentage in groups I, II, III, and IV, and a high percentage in group V.

Age period.	Av. % for 10 years 1928-37.	% for 1938.	Notes re percentage for 1938.
I. Babies under 1	6.56	8.96	Above normal.
II. Infants, 1-5	2.85	2.24	Normal—good.
III. School, 5-15	2.02	0.74	Exceptionally low.
IV. Working, 15-65	36.16	40.29	Well above normal.
V. Retired, 65 up.	52.39	47.76	Below normal.

The percentage of deaths of persons above the age of 65 years is below that of last year.

The high percentage of deaths of persons above 65 years is a regular feature in Berwick. The average percentage for the past 14 years is 50.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS ABOVE 65 YEARS

1925	'26	'27	'28	'29	'30	'31	'32	'33	'34	'35	'36	'37	'38
42	45	47	53	42	49	54	57	53	48	50	56	59	48

Causes of Death.

The following table shews the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...
2	Measles ...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	1
4	Whooping Cough ...	1	1	2
5	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...
6	Influenza ...	...	...	...
7	Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	...
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...
11	Syphilis ...	...	...	...
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ...	1	...	1
13	Cancer, malignant disease	7	14	21
14	Diabetes ...	...	2	2
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage ...	4	8	12
16	Heart Disease ...	23	14	37
17	Aneurysm ...	...	...	...
18	Other circulatory diseases...	3	...	3
19	Bronchitis ...	2	...	2
20	Pneumonia, all forms ...	3	5*	8
21	Other respiratory diseases	1	3	4
22	Peptic Ulcer ...	...	2	2
23	Diarrhœa, etc., under 2 years	...	...	...
24	Appendicitis ...	...	...	...
25	Cirrhosis of liver ...	...	...	...
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	1	...	1
27	Other digestive diseases ...	...	...	...
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	3	...	3
29	Puerperal sepsis ...	...	...	...
30	Other puerperal causes ...	...	...	...
31	Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformation, etc. ...	2	3	5
32	Senility ...	5	7	12
33	Suicide ...	...	1	1
34	Other Violence ...	4	1	5
35	Other defined diseases ...	6	5	11
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...
Totals		67	68	135

*Deduct 1 female belonging to Scotland.

The following 1 Scottish death should be deducted from the foregoing (Registrar-General's) figures :—

No.	Sex	Age	Cause of Death	Class. No.	Assignment
280	F	70	Lobar Pneumonia	20	Aberdeen

Principal Causes of Death.

No important variations appear in the numbers in the various causes of death. The largest causes of death were—heart disease 37, cancer 21, cerebral hæmorrhage 12, and senility 12.

A review of the vital statistics over the past eighteen years—1921-38—reveals some interesting features in the causes of death.

Dividing this period into two periods of nine years, 1921-29 and 1930-38, there have been decreases in the following causes of death, viz., typhoid, measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, influenza, encephalitis, cerebro-spinal fever, pulmonary tuberculosis, other tuberculous diseases, puerperal sepsis, diarrhoea under 2 years, pneumonia, bronchitis, and congenital debility, premature birth, etc., most of which are to a considerable extent influenced by the public health services. There has also been a substantial decrease in deaths from appendicitis, for which the medical practitioners may be complimented. By far the greatest increase is from heart disease. 94% of these deaths occur among persons over 45 years of age. As people are living longer, continued increase of this cause of death is to be expected. Cancer also shows a steady increase. 97% of these deaths occur amongst persons over 35 years, and the increase in the number of persons living beyond that age provides a greater number who may be affected with cancer. Indeed, the longer people live the greater the chance of their being affected with cancer and heart disease. With the increased attention which has been given to cancer by the medical profession and research workers since the war, the education and interest of the public in their diet, and the earlier treatment of the disease, it is hoped that the coming years may show a decrease in the number of deaths, or, at least, a postponement of the age at which the disease may occur.

Among the less important causes of death, diabetes shows the greatest increase. In the 18 years there were 38 deaths, 27 of which occurred during the past nine years, but 19 occurred during the first five years of that period and only 8 during the past 4 years, which is equal to 2 per annum over the whole period of 18 years.

Infantile Mortality.

12 deaths of infants under 1 year belonging to the Borough were recorded, giving a rate of 72 per 1000 live births, as compared with 6 deaths and a rate of 33 in the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales for 1938 is 53. The lowest rate yet recorded was in 1931 when 25 was the figure, while the average rate for the 10 years ending 1938 was 59.

CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Reg. No.	Sex	Age	Cause of death
232	F	11 months	Broncho pneumonia.
233	F	1 month	Whooping cough.
253	M	3 days	Premature Birth.
270	F	1 day	Melacna Neonatorum.
308	F	1 day	Injury at Birth.
309	F	9 days	Convulsions.
312	M	5 days	Heart Failure.
319	M	1 month	Lobar pneumonia.
324	M	1 month	Marasmus.
373	F	3 hours	Congenital debility.
396	M	2 days	Convulsions.
405	M	3 days	Enlarged thymus gland.

The following table shows the Infantile Death-rate for the past 48 years :—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1891-1938.

Period	Deaths under One Year	Births Registered	D.-R. per 1000 Births	England & Wales
1891-1900	Average —51	378	137	153
1901-1910	„ 39	336	115	128
1911-1920	„ 23	258	88	100
1921-1930	„ 19	274	74	72
1931	One Year— 5	198	25	66
1932	„ 13	181	72	65
1933	„ 17	189	89	64
1934	„ 8	192	42	59
1935	„ 12	171	70	57
1936	„ 7	155	45	57
1937	„ 6	183	33	58
1938	„ 12	167	72	53

Infectious Diseases.

A total of 180 cases of infectious diseases were notified, as compared with 26 for the previous year—Scarlet Fever 156 : 5, diphtheria 18 : 11, erysipelas 4 : 2, pneumonia 2 : 7, puerperal fever 0 : 1.

14 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis).

		1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Tls.	Rem. to Hos.	Died
Scarlet Fever	...	7	21	55	73	156	154	1
Diphtheria	...	1	1	7	9	18	18	...
Erysipelas	...	2	1	1	...	4	2	...
Pneumonia	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		11	24	63	82	180	174	1

DEATHS FROM NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1925-38

	1925	'26	'27	'28	'29	'30	'31	'32	'33	'34	'35	'36	'37	'38
Influenza	4	2	4	2	5	1	2	...	2	1	2	2	5	...
Whooping Cough	2	2	...	...	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	5	1	...	...	1	...

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1929-38.

	1929	'30	'31	'32	'33	'34	'35	'36	'37	'38
Scarlet Fever	...	15	5	11	27	53	41	20	45	5 156
Diphtheria	...	4	2	7	2	1	20	28	11	11 18
Enteric Fever...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Para. Typhoid	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	2	16	4	7	5	4	6	1	2 4
Pneumonia	...	14	4	6	7	5	5	1	1	7 2
Tuberculosis	...	21	35	26	21	15	19	23	23	10 16
Cer. Spin. Menin.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox
Enceph. Letharg.	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Chickenpox
Ophthalmia Neon.	1	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	1 ...
Do. Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		56	64	58	66	80	89	79	81	36 196

TUBERCULOSIS.

	<i>New cases.</i>				<i>Total deaths.</i>			
	<i>Pulmon.</i>		<i>Non-pulmon.</i>		<i>Pulmon.</i>		<i>Non-pulmon.</i>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-10	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
20-25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25-30	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
30-35	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
35-40	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
40-45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	9	6	1	...	1	1	...	...

NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	<i>Pulmon.</i>			<i>Non-pulmon.</i>			<i>Ttls.</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Tot.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Tot.</i>	
On register, 1st Jan., 1938	36	38	74	29	31	60	134
Notified during yr. for first time	9	6	15	1	...	1	16
Removed from register during yr.	1	1	2	...	...	...	2
Cases remaining on register, 31st Dec., 1938	44	43	87	30	31	61	148

Section B.—General Provision of Health Services.

Ambulance Facilities.—As mentioned in previous reports, motor ambulance facilities are available for removal of infectious diseases to hospital, and of accident and surgical cases to infirmaries. The latter service—that of removal of cases to the local infirmary, and to the Edinburgh and Newcastle Infirmaries—is largely taken advantage of both by people resident in the Borough and the surrounding area.

During the year the Council's Ambulance Service answered 337 calls, travelling 5,140 miles, and using 470 gallons of petrol. 156 cases of infectious diseases were removed to Berwick Infectious Diseases Hospital from the Borough, and 13 cases from Norham and Islandshires and Glendale R.D.C. Districts. From Berwick and neighbouring districts 121 private patients were removed to Berwick Infirmary, 8 to Berwick Institution, 18 to Edinburgh Infirmary, 1 to Glasgow Infirmary, 7 to Newcastle Infirmary, and 1 to North Shields Hospital. 11 patients were removed from Glendale District to Wooler Hospital. The total amount recovered during the year

from other Local Authorities and private persons for use of Ambulance Services was £107-14-4.

Hospitals and Nursing.

HOSPITALS.—No change has taken place in the arrangements made for the treatment of tuberculosis.

A Joint Hospital Board for North Northumberland was formed during the year, to take over the treatment of infectious disease cases at an early date. The districts included in the area are Berwick Borough, Norham and Islandshires R.D.C., Glendale R.D.C., Belford R.D.C., Alnwick Borough, Alnwick R.D.C., Amble, Rothbury. There is reason for the hope that modern hospital facilities will be provided by the Board by the provision of two hospitals situated to conveniently serve the needs of the north and south parts of this somewhat extensive area.

Maternity Nursing.—The three “Queens” nurses of the Berwick Ladies District Nursing Association continue to render valuable service to the community. The nurses attended at 151 births or 90% of the total births of the Borough. Besides the maternity work, the nurses also attended 279 Medical and surgical cases. The number of visits to patients (other than military) were 7,721, articles of clothing given to patients, 436, and the issues of nursing appliances was 51. The work of the “Queens Nurses”, which has been going on quietly and efficiently for many years, is a very valuable contribution to the health services to the Borough, and work which cannot be too highly praised.

	1932	'33	'34	'35	'36	'37	'38
Total births ...	181	185	192	171	177	183	167
No. of births attended	165	175	184	145	169	158	151
% attendances to births	91%	94%	96%	85%	95%	86%	90%

Weather Conditions at Berwick.

Sunshine.—The total hours of bright sunshine was 1451, or 163 hours more than in 1937. The daily average of hours of bright sunshine was 3.98, as compared with 3.53 in the previous year; this represents 33% of the possible maximum for one year.

Rain.—23 inches of rainfall were recorded, which is 3 in. less than last year. The total in millimetres, 551, is 63 less than the average. The greatest rainfall in one day occurred on the 25th July, 1938, when 23.3 mm., or .93 of an inch, was recorded.

Fog.—Fog occurred on 4 days, as against 7 in the previous year, and 5 in 1936.

The following tables shew the sunshine and rain recorded since the Meteorological Station was erected.

Sunshine.

Shewing the Total number of Hours Sunshine in each year and each month—May, 1923, to December, 1938.

Year	Ann. Tot. Hrs.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1923	1085	*				148	158	180	182	155	133	71	58
24	1399	57	54	142	143	149	188	179	125	141	113	56	53
25	1469	53	77	134	164	158	197	153	147	131	120	75	59
26	1510	37	64	131	149	194	168	171	179	158	132	75	55
27	1309	53	71	123	165	131	184	141	167	108	89	64	13
28	1384	56	94	60	135	158	174	201	134	144	103	70	55
29	1621	32	52	187	179	192	215	182	168	159	122	79	54
30	1486	73	68	116	95	176	234	194	172	101	129	83	45
31	1364	72	73	136	145	203	156	81	138	112	140	60	50
32	1411	92	85	106	187	118	182	150	150	151	91	62	39
33	1534	68	75	166	132	139	241	208	212	121	91	55	26
34	1462	67	103	122	124	192	150	221	156	150	105	50	22
35	1393	32	57	109	123	178	144	250	153	149	76	66	55
36	1510	54	72	67	207	190	226	158	183	92	120	76	65
37	1288	52	102	92	85	190	186	132	154	143	70	51	31
38	1451	73	65	107	157	177	201	135	160	124	116	83	53

Rainfall.

Shewing the Annual Rainfall in each year (in inches), and the Monthly Rainfall (in millimetres)—May, 1923, to December, 1938.

Year	Total inches.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total Milli- metres.
1923	16	*				44	20	33	97	30	37	88	52	401
24	25	45	21	110	25	109	50	94	48	73	93	20	38	625
25	25	16	10	48	57	74	9	44	52	97	29	45	66	645
26	27	65	57	18	48	56	70	91	56	91	84	68	10	715
27	30	33	13	43	31	48	65	66	167	133	43	60	58	760
28	23	58	21	60	25	21	96	62	87	26	37	66	30	589
29	22	41	38	3	36	27	46	67	93	8	56	59	80	554
30	27	55	29	43	37	13	19	130	91	81	61	72	57	688
31	22	52	21	18	42	73	93	81	29	23	34	71	18	605
32	21	26	13	76	30	45	39	56	21	83	111	16	24	540
33	20	27	54	14	49	34	32	66	31	25	74	55	37	498
34	27	26	5	59	81	31	49	89	69	50	98	48	92	696
35	25	25	28	48	90	19	61	18	82	70	65	74	42	624
36	24	95	74	49	29	22	27	74	31	86	35	63	31	614
37	26	49	70	82	35	70	32	65	70	14	15	9	108	659
38	23	55	13	20	4	52	60	77	32	59	69	65	45	551

Figures to the nearest whole number. *1923 total is for 8 months only

Section C.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Water.—Owing to the large increase made in the demand upon our present sources of water supply by the provision of new houses with internal water supply, individual w.c.s, and baths, the Council decided to augment the supply. During the year work has been proceeding with a trial borehole at Murton, about 3 miles to the south-west of the Borough. While final reports as to the quantity have not been received, there are reasonable grounds for believing that sufficient will be obtained to meet the needs of the Borough. A report is awaited as to the results of an examination of the water as to its quality.

15 samples were taken from our existing sources of water supply and submitted for bacteriological examination with satisfactory results.

Closet Accommodation.—There are no privy closets within the populous areas of the town of Berwick, the few remaining in the Borough being in Tweedmouth and Spittal; these exist at the properties which have been on the programme for action under the Housing Acts, while a few exist in isolated parts where sewerage facilities are not available.

During the year 13 privies were abolished as a result of slum clearance, and 4 by the substitution of water closets. The remainder at the end of 1938 was 44 privy pails, and of this number action taken under the Housing Acts resulted in 19 other cases which were abolished in the first quarter of 1939, leaving 25 yet to be dealt with.

*Tabular Statement of Visits, Inspections, etc.,
by Sanitary Inspector.*

Visits and Inspections to			
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	64
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	12
Slaughter Houses	...	...	1342
Bakehouses	...	...	24
Workshops and Factories	...	...	50
Offensive Trades	...	...	12
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...
Ships	...	...	87
Infectious Disease	...	...	1840
House-to-house	...	...	680
Yards, Courts, etc.	...	...	112
Shop and Business Premises	...	...	140
Smoke Nuisance	...	...	64
Notices issued—Informal	...	...	122
Do. —Statutory	...	...	...
Notices complied with—Informal	...	...	110
Do. —Statutory	...	...	...

**Statement of Nuisances, Defects, and Contraventions,
discovered and dealt with by Sanitary Inspector.**

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Byres cleansed or limewashed	...	...	6
Cows hindquarters and udders found dirty (Herds)...	...	...	6
Manure in proximity to byre or milkshop	...	...	...
Manure pits emptied	...	...	4
Other Contraventions of Regulations	...	...	8

Stables and Piggeries.

Piggeries too near dwellings	...	...	2
Manure heaps removed	...	...	2
Stables limewashed	...	...	4
Stables drained	...	...	...

Slaughter Houses.

Gullies choked, cleared	...	...	12
Offal Carts defective	...	...	1
Limewashing required	...	...	11
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	8

Workshops and Factories.

Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	8
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation insufficient, unsuitable, or defective	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances or offences	...	...	...	2

Offensive Trades.

Delay in removing offal	...	...	...	6
Other nuisances	...	...	...	4

Common Lodging Houses.

Limewashing required.	...	...	...	...
Bedding and bed clothes cleaned or renewed	...	...	...	...

Ships.

Dirty bedding of sailors	...	...	...	1
Dirty forecastles (painting and cleansing)	...	...	...	2
Dirty Lockers	...	...	...	1
Dirty Water-closets	...	...	...	4
Lack of proper ventilation	...	...	...	...

Infectious Disease.

Houses disinfected	...	...	...	186
Schools and Public Halls disinfected	...	...	...	24

House to House—Nuisances discovered.

Ashes and refuse accumulation	...	...	...	6
Dirty Water Closets	...	...	...	18
Choked gullies, drains, and water closets	...	...	...	32
Dirty houses	...	...	...	1
Dirty yards swept	...	...	...	12

Shops and Provision Stores.

Food stores limewashed	...	...	...	4
Food improperly exposed to dust, etc.	...	...	...	2
Rubbish accumulations removed	...	...	...	12
Premises protected against rats	...	...	...	26

Fish Friers Premises.

Fat vessels covered from dust	...	...	...	...
Dirty Floors	...	...	...	2

Drainage, etc.

Drains relaid	8
New drainage system provided	37
Gully traps obsolete, replaced	4
Drainage system trapped ... ..	...
Water closets, additional, provided	16
Water closets erected in lieu of privies... ..	4
Privy pails and middens removed	17
Privy pails renewed ... ..	...
Wash houses provided	4
Do. repaired	6
Water supply introduced into yards ... ..	...
Do. do. houses	26
Repairs to w.c. apartments and fittings... ..	22
Privy pans and middens (properties) at end of 1938	44

**Sanitary Improvements effected under supervision
of Sanitary Inspector.**

Houses.

Dampness in Walls	16
Defective roofs repaired	12
Wood floors repaired	8
Plaster work of walls repaired	16
Windows hung on cords	34
Window cords renewed	22
Provided with pantries	8
Spouting renewed or repaired	28
Other housing defects remedied	56
Miscellaneous nuisances removed	72

Shops and Offices.—Owing to the pressure of work in connection with housing and infectious disease, a survey of the shops and offices in the Borough had to be discontinued. Most of the shops and offices now comply with the requirements of the Act.

The following improvements were, however, effected :—

1. Additional w.c. accommodation ...	1
2. Separate w.c. accommodation for sexes	3
3. Heating apparatus provided	3
4. Improved ventilation	2
5. Washing facilities	2
6. Facilities for taking meals	1

Camping Sites.—The Magdalene Fields provides suitable and healthy sites for camping, and are used annually by companies numbering about 1000 men, about 850 were of the Territorial Army various other fields in Berwick, Tweedmouth, and Spittal are used by a few casual campers for a short period in the summer time. These places are visited, and such matters as suitability of site, water supply, sanitary conveniences, and cleaning up of litter seen to. One site in Tweedmouth which caters for campers and caravans has water supply from the public mains, separate water closet accommodation for the sexes, wash basins, and washing accommodation in stone buildings adjoining the farm buildings.

Smoke Abatement.—The large timber and joinery works of Messrs. Allan Bros., Tweedmouth, erected new furnaces and a large chimney stalk at a very considerable cost. The installation has given very satisfactory results and no further complaints of smoke nuisance have been received. The local laundry of Messrs. Lamb installed a new boiler with mechanical feeding apparatus during the year, and has proved an effective remedy. Although situated in the centre of the town, and in close proximity to many dwellings, no complaints have been received since its completion.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are two swimming pools, one for the ladies and one for gentlemen, situated on the beach at Berwick. These were built many years ago by the Council, are free, and are taken full advantage of by the public and visitors during the summer months. There is no suitable provision for bathing or swimming during the winter, and the existing pools are too exposed for use except during the warmer months. The Council have under consideration the erection of a modern swimming pool, but owing to the cost of the proposed provision there does not appear to be a majority of the inhabitants willing to give the Council the necessary support to warrant proceeding with it.

Bugs.—One block of four council houses and two private dwellings adjoining each other were disinfested of bugs. All woodwork such as picture rails and skirting boards were loosened from the walls and these, the floors, and infested furniture freely sprayed with "Solution B". The picture rails and skirting boards were then taken off entirely where necessary and again sprayed. The houses were inspected at intervals of a few days and when found clear of bugs and after elapse of about 21 days the woodwork was replaced and all cracks

in plaster work were plastered over. The results were very satisfactory. The work of disinfection was carried out in the council houses by local tradesmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The houses and furniture of persons removing to council houses were inspected and where necessary, steps were taken to ensure that the belongings of the tenants were free or freed from vermin before removal to the council houses.

Beetles, etc.—Several householders infested with beetles were provided with insect powder. In one case, woodwork near the fire place was removed to finally eradicate the beetles.

Rats—The refuse tip and two offal tips infested with rats were treated with Cyanide gas, resulting in considerable reduction of these pests. The work was carried out by the Council's workmen at the refuse tip and by the owners of the offal tips under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The Council has arranged for the ensuing year a contract with a professional rat catcher to visit the Council's refuse tip regularly to keep the tip clear of rats.

Schools.—A considerable number of cases of scarlet fever occurred amongst school children, commencing in June at Tweedmouth (West) Council School and spreading to Tweedmouth (East) Council School. Both these schools were closed one week prior to the beginning of their summer vacation. This resulted in an almost immediate reduction in the cases of scarlet fever in Tweedmouth. A few weeks after the resumption of attendance at school, cases were reported from the Berwick Schools, and these continued until the end of the year.

It was found that the scholars at several of the schools used drinking cups in common, and these appeared to be an excellent source of spreading infection amongst the pupils. The attention of the Northumberland Education Authority was directed to this matter, and the suggestion put forward that drinking fountains should be installed at the various schools. This suggestion was considered by the Education Authority, and it was decided not to give effect to the suggestion.

The sanitary accommodation at all the schools in the Borough is of the water carriage system, and the water supply is from the Borough's mains.

Section D.—HOUSING.

The number of occupied houses in the Borough at the end of 1938 was 3508.

ERECTION OF NEW DWELLINGS.

By private enterprise :—37 houses were built during the year by various firms, and were mostly owner occupied. These were erected at the Meadows Estate and North Road, Berwick, and Mansefield Road, Etal Road, Shielfield Terrace, and Osborne Road, Tweedmouth.

By Local Authority :—138 houses at High Fields Estate, Berwick, and 40 houses at the Billendean Estate, Spittal.

(a) Houses erected 1921-38.

		<i>By private enterprise</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>	<i>Total</i>
1921	...	1	22	23
22	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	24	24
24	...	4	32	36
25	...	20	72	92
26	...	12	26	38
27	...	1	97	98
28	...	25	51	76
29	...	4	...	4
30	...	7	16	23
31	...	2	...	2
32	...	...	60	60
33	...	20	8	28
34	...	32	...	32
35	...	42	24	66
36	...	58	76	134
37	...	33	100	133
38	...	37	178	215
<hr/>				
Totals	...	298	786	1084

(b) *Type of New Houses erected 1921-38 by Local Authority.*

	<i>Living Room</i>	<i>Parlour</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Bedrooms</i>			<i>Totals</i>
				<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
1921	22	8	...	...	22	...	22
22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	24	...	...	12	12	...	24
24	32	...	...	16	16	...	32
25	72	...	40	32	...	...	72
26	26	...	12	7	7	...	26
27	97	...	45	36	16	...	97
28	51	...	19	32	...	...	51
29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	16	...	...	16	...	...	16
31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32	60	...	...	40	20	...	60
33	8	...	...	8	...	...	8
34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	24	...	...	12	8	4	24
36	76	...	...	48	22	6	76
37	100	...	...	60	30	10	100
38	178	...	2	92	64	20	178
<hr/>							
Totals	786	8	118	411	217	40	786

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.

Representations were made during the year regarding 214 houses occupied by 797 persons, considered unfit for human habitation.

Demolition orders were made on 173 houses under section 11 ; 29 houses were closed under section 12 ; 7 houses were closed, undertakings being given by owners not to allow them to be re-occupied for human habitation, and undertakings were accepted by owners of 5 houses to make these fit within a specified period.

This brings the total number of houses closed as unfit since 1930 to 552, occupied by 2,121 persons. In the past 8 years one-sixth of the Borough's population has been removed from insanitary dwellings to modern up-to-date ones.

Since 1921, 786 houses have been built and completed by the Council, and 298 houses have been erected by private enterprise, making a total of 1,084 new houses, or almost one-third of the occupied houses in the Borough.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	178
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	...	...	37
Total	—	—	215

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	244
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	526
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	214
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	447
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	214
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	30

2. Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notices—

(1)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	26
-----	---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	...	...	...	—
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	30
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—				
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	26
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners				—
(c) Proceedings under secs. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...		180
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...		108
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—					
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	29
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	—

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV).—Overcrowding.

(For particulars see statement on "Overcrowding" below.)

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year.	381
(ii)	„ families dwelling therein.	398
(iii)	„ persons „ „	1666
(b)	„ new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	—
(c) (i)	„ cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	45
(ii)	„ persons concerned in such cases.	251
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellings have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.		
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.		

No. of overcrowding cases relieved by slum clearance (included in 4 (c) (i) above	32
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

OVERCROWDING.

Since the original survey in March, 1936, annual surveys were made in June of 1937 and 1938 to ascertain the exact position of overcrowding in the Borough. The Council decided not to sanction any expenditure for a similar survey in 1939. The present position of overcrowding can not, therefore, be stated so accurately as in previous reports, but the under-noted figures are as near as can be computed without a survey.

Houses found overcrowded—1936 survey	...	630
Decrease to 31st December, 1938	... ..	249

Houses overcrowded at 31st December, 1938	...	381
---	-----	-----

	Remedied.	New Cases.	Nett decrease.	Remain- ing.
Result of 1936-7 re-survey	204	48	156	474
„ 1937-8 „	130	58	72	402
Result—15/6/38 to 31/12/38	45	24	21	381
Totals	379	130	249	381

The total of 130 new cases of overcrowding, which have arisen since the 1936 Survey, are largely due to children attaining the age of 1 year and 10 years, and therefore cannot be regarded yet as serious cases of overcrowding.

The total number of units in overcrowded houses found during the 1936 survey was 2,973, and the number as at 31st December, 1938, was 1,666, a reduction of 56%. Considering that no houses have yet been built by the Council for the specific purpose of relieving overcrowding, the results so far obtained may be taken as having effected a substantial improvement. A further reduction in the number of overcrowded families will be effected as a result of slum clearance arranged for during 1938 to take place during January and February, 1939. Towards the end of the year the Council decided to erect 110 houses as a first instalment for the abatement of overcrowding.

Section E — INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The number of cows in the dairy herds towards the end of last year was 156, compared with 166 the previous year,

The cowkeepers continue to pay attention to the general cleanliness of the byres and milk utensils. 38 visits were made to the cowsheds, and the usual minor contraventions found (see p. 22) were promptly attended to. 26 visits were paid to milkshops and other dairy premises.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925 (Diseases of Animals Acts).

No cases were reported under the above Order during 1938.

Meat and other Foods.

Cause			Wholly or partly condemned
1 Cow—Emaciation and Mastitis	...		Wholly
1 Cow and organs—generalised tuberculosis			Do.
1 Cow—fevered, head affected with actinomycosis			Do.
2 Bullocks—generalised tuberculosis	...		Do.
1 Bull—bruised in transport	...		Do.
1 Bullock—tuberculosis calcarious (376 lbs.)			Forequarters only
3 Sheep—dropsy	...	...	Wholly
2 do. pleurisy	...	...	Do.
4 do. moribund	...	...	Do.
7 do. lambing	...	...	Do.
11 do. emaciation	..	...	Do.
4 do. bruised in transport		...	Do.
1 do. do.		...	Forequarters only
1 do. pleurisy	...	...	Do.

35 sheep livers were affected with fluke.

CARCASES INSPECTED & CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1513	3	...	38656	1498
Number inspected	... 1142	3	...	6240	1282
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	...	31	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	37	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	0.09%	66%	...	0.17%	...
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	...	...	...	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber.	0.27%	33%	...	...	...

In addition, 20x12oz. tins of lunch tongue, 4x14lb. tins of boneless ham, and 4 rabbits were certified as unfit for food of man and destroyed.

The internal tinning of the cans containing the boneless hams, above referred to, appeared to have been too thin, as the tinning had entirely disappeared at parts, and the portions of the ham in contact with the bared parts of the tin were the starting points of the deterioration of the ham. These hams had a beautiful appearance when being sliced, and it is only on opening the tin or when making a fresh cut that their tainted condition is usually discovered, as the smell disappears on exposure to the air. Detection of an unsound ham is not easy unless one is on the lookout for unsoundness, especially as it is a rare experience for a grocer to come across a really bad one. Food poisoning, involving upsetting of the digestive system, is apt to follow eating of contents, and it is a wise procedure if, on puncturing the tin, the grocer applies his nose to the hole to detect the emission of gas. The conversion of the jelly into liquid should be regarded as a very suspicious sign, and where this has taken place the Sanitary Inspector should be sent for at once to examine the contents. When tins are found blown they should not be punctured in the shop, otherwise the smell may penetrate to every part of the premises.

The butchers shops, fish shops, fruiterers, and grocers are also visited, and the instructions of the Inspector as to the care of food-stuffs and prevention of contamination promptly attended to.

Special visits were paid during the summer to provision shops where bacon is sold, to ascertain the condition of the bacon. While some loss was occasioned during warm weather, on the whole, the bacon kept well.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

42 samples of various foods and drugs were taken during the year, and examined by the public analyst as under:—

		No. taken.	Found genuine.	Not genuine
Milk	...	29	25	4
Butter	...	2	2	...
Margarine	...	2	2	...
Lard	...	1	1	...
Malt Vinegar	...	1	1	...
Flour	...	1	1	...
White Pepper	...	1	1	...
Cocoa	...	1	1	...
Ground Rice	...	1	1	...
Custard Powder	...	1	1	...
Self Raising Flour	...	1	1	...
Chicken and Ham Paste	...	1	1	...
Totals	...	42	38	4

All samples which might possibly have contained preservative were examined for such. Those reported genuine either contained none, or, if permitted to contain preservative, they contained it in a quantity within that permitted.

It will be observed that all the samples other than milk samples were reported "genuine." Of the 29 samples, 4, or 13.8%, were not up to standard. This is a low percentage. In the 4 non-genuine samples, deficiency in milk fat was explained by "appeal to cow."

SHIPPING.

The amount of shipping entering the port during the year was 101 vessels of a total registered tonnage of 19,939 tons. The following table gives particulars of the foreign and coastwise vessels :—

	No.	Tonnage	Number inspected by the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	No, reported to be defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of vessels reported as having, or having during the voyage infectious disease on board
Foreign :							
Steamers	11	5249	...	10	...	...	...
*Motor	9	895	...	8	...	...	...
Sailing	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing	2	22	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign	22	6166	...	18	...	...	...
Coastwise :							
Steamers	68	12178	...	61	...	...	...
*Motor	11	1595	...	8	...	...	...
Sailing	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise	79	13773	...	69	...	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise	101 19939		...	87	...	...	...

*Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

There is no passenger traffic in the port, the character of the trade being entirely cargo traffic.

The principal imports were timber, phosphates, cement, petrol, petroleum, kainit, potash salts, pyrites, china clay, slag, ice, slates, and dried grain.

The principal exports were coal, coal bunker, barley, burnt ore, sand and gravel, and granite setts.

The foreign ports from which vessels arrived were :—Antwerp, Bremen, Hamburg, Archangel, Trondjem, Porsgrund, Sfax, Boba, Scoghall, Drobak, Koivisto, Alta, Waija, Lovisa, and Leningrad.

The water supply available for ships is from the town main ; it is led into the ships tanks by hose direct from the Borough hydrants.

The Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.—The arrangements made under these regulations, and for medical and hospital treatment, were fully reported upon previously.

No cases of infectious sickness were landed from vessels during the year, nor did any such cases occur during the voyage on any vessels arriving at the port.

No action was taken for the destruction of rats on ships.

HYGIENE OF SHIPS' CREWS.

Classification of Nuisances (Table J).

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	18	...	...	6
Other Nations	69	..	...	2
	<hr/> 87			<hr/> 8

Factories and Workshops.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	18	2	...
Workshops (do. Workshop do.)	28	7	..
Workplaces ...	4	2	..
	<hr/> 50	<hr/> 11	<hr/> ...

Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and other places

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness ...	8	8
Want of Ventilation ...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient ...	1	1
{ unsuitable or defective ...	...	...
{ not separate for sexes ...	...	...
Other Offences ...	2	2
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 11

